The Plantlife of Ratho

Yellow & Red Brassicaceae (Cabbage/Cress/Mustard Family) : Part 2 • 2021-06-09

Common Wintercress – Regularly encountered, here near the end of the long canalside wall approaching EICA.

The upper leaves are not or poorly divided (right). After flowering the flower head extends out quite long, with many pods (<4 cm) held near to the axis.

Barbarea vulgaris

Medium-Flowered Wintercress – Somewhat encountered, e.g. between picnic table and large seat, Hallcroft Park nr H. Rise, Craigpark, Field E of nr Norton House drive.

The upper leaves are well-divided (right), pods similar to above (flower head extends out quite long, with many pods (<4 cm) held near to the axis).

Barbarea intermedia

American Wintercress – Rare. By and opposite the church hall; Craigpark. Mostly eradicated by over-tidying and resurfacing there but hopefully will return. Some spotted in Craigpark.

Upper leaves well-lobed like Intermediate but leaves fresher green, flowers larger, base leaves very lobey, pods long (>4cm) and divergent. Has a pleasant taste (unlike the other two).

Barbarea verna

Creeping Yellow-Cress – River Almondside at Clifton.

Sprawling, pods rather long and upward-pointing.

Rorippa sylvestris

Marsh Yellow-Cress – Ranfield Marsh area.

Relatively upright. Leaves often clasp stem; pods long spaced around stem on longish stalks.

Rorippa palustris

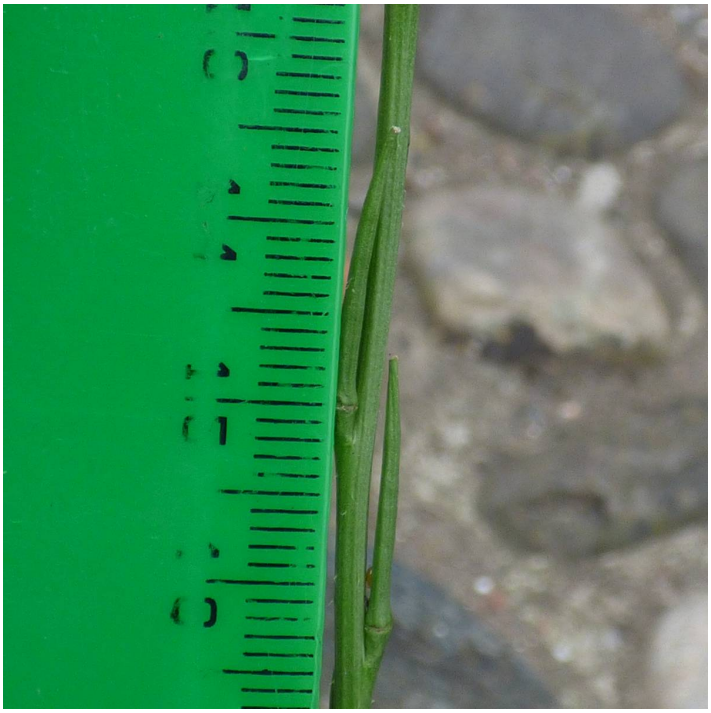
Northern Yellow-Cress – Wasteground behind Edinburgh Park station (rare).

Pods are short-stalked and often curve all in one direction as seen here.

Rorippa islandica

Hedge Mustard – Common on path edges etc.

Pods held tight to the stalk and (right) taper to their tip.



Sisymbrium officinale

Eastern Rocket – Craigpark before grassing. Often met in the city as a new incoming plant.

The pods are long and widely angled to the stem.

Sisymbrium orientale

Rapeseed – Familiar field-crop.

The leaves are greyish, clasp the stems, and the buds are higher than the open flowers with petals (removed and laid flat) mostly >11mm.

Brassica napus subsp. oleifera

Turnip-Rape – Possible relic to be found.

Similar to rapeseed above but the flowers rise above the buds which are recessed like a bowl.

Brassica rapa

Charlock – Frequent in fields and also disturbed ground.

Usually strongly bristly with longish dumpy pods that start hairy (ends not flat).

Sinapis arvensis

Radish – Relic beside crop fields.

Raphanus raphanistrum

Wallflower – Occasional escape, such as at the entrance to School Wynd.

The flowers are yellow or may be reddened; the leaves narrow.

Erysimum cheiri = Cheiranthus cheiri

Garden Rocket – Infrequent casual.

Pale yellow flower with dark central cross colouring. The ends of the fruits are a flat beak (seen here at the schoolside path to Hallcroft).

Eruca vesicaria ssp sativa

Kale (=Cabbage) – Occasional escape, here in Craigpark. A cabbage cultivar.

The yellow flowers are in a very elongated spike.

Brassica oleracea 'Red Russian' (or v. similar)